

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03643 200230Z

71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 018292

R 200130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2832

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 3643

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: COCONUT MONK HAS SPOKEN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO MARCH 15,
1974, REPEATED FOR YOU. QUOTE:

CAN THO 0095

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: COCONUT MONK HAS SPOKEN

1. FSO CHUCK SMITH BECAME PERHAPS THE FIRST AMERICAN OFFICIAL
EVER TO SPEAK - AND LISTEN - TO THE COCONUT MONK, WHEN HE
VISITED THE MONK IN HIS ISLAND HOME ON MARCH 14. MY THO SOURCES
SAID THE MONK BEGAN TO SPEAK ONLY ON MARCH 8.

2. THE COCONUT MONK TOLD SMITH HE HAS DECIDED TO BRING HIS
LONG SILENCE TO AN END BECAUSE, THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03643 200230Z

HAVING OBVIOUSLY FAILED, HE SEES THAT HIS SILENCE IS NOT

PRODUCING RESULTS. THE MONK SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS NOT ABANDONING HIS EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO VIETNAM BY BRINGING TOGETHER LEADERS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT FOREIGNERS HAVE PLAYED DOMINANT ROLES IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT LONG ENOUGH AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO COME TOGETHER AND REACH AN AGREEMENT.

3. THE MONK SAID THAT HE WISHES TO HOLD TALKS AT A SPOT ANYWHERE IN VIETNAM WITH HIMSELF AS MODERATOR. HE WOULD INVITE FROM THE GVN THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, PLUS THE THREE HIGHEST RANKING LEADERS OF THE DRV AND THE PRG. HE WOULD ALSO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND FROM EXILE GROUPS. CONCERNING THE LATTER, HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY BAO DAI AND EX PRIME MINISTER TAM. HE SAID HE NOW WANTS PRESIDENT THIEU TO GRANT HIM FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT SO HE CAN GO TO HONG KONG AND CATCH A PLANE FOR HANOI, WHERE HE WILL PRESENT HIS VIEWS TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE WOULD DO THIS ONLY AFTER HAVING SPOKEN FIRST WITH PRESIDENT THIEU. (SMITH SAID THE MONK HINTED BROADLY THAT HE WOULD LIKE US TO INTERVENE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON HIS BEHALF IN THIS MATTER.)

4. THE MONK SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS PROPOSED MEETING WOULD BE TO PLAN ELECTIONS. AS OF NOW, HE SAID, BOTH THE THIEU GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER SIDE ARE AFRAID OF ELECTIONS, EACH FEARING THAT IT MIGHT EMERGE AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER. AFTER AGREEMENT ON ELECTION MODALITIES, SAID THE MONK, HE WOULD INVITE FOREIGNERS INTO THE COUNTRY TO "CONSOLIDATE THE PEACE."

5. TURNING TO MATTERS CLOSER TO HOME, THE COCONUT MONK SAID THAT VISITORS TO HIS ISLAND NOW AVERAGE ONLY 50 TO 100 PER DAY. FORMERLY THERE WERE TWICE THAT MANY. HE SAID TOO THAT HE SENT PRESIDENT THIEU A REQUEST TWO MONTHS AGO FOR PERMISSION TO ALLOW HIS FOLLOWERS TO FARM PRESENTLY UNTILLED LAND IN SA DEC AND CHAU DOC IN ORDER TO SUPPORT HIS PAGODA. (THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 3,000 MONKS ON THE ISLAND.) THE MONK SAID THAT DAMAGE FROM THE FIRE LAST YEAR WHICH GUTTED THE COCONUT MONK'S SMALL SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN 80 PERCENT REPAIRED. SIGNED WRIGHT.
UNQUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAIGON 03643 200230Z

MARTIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, CLERGYMEN, COCONUT MONK, PEACE PLANS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON03643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740058-0408
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740329/aaaabavr.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COCONUT MONK HAS SPOKEN FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO MARCH 15
TAGS: PINT, VS, VN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005